

2008 Lee County Fire Department Budget Interviews May 15, 2008

Cape Fear

1. Please explain why you have \$1,000 in service testing. Who does the testing? What kind of service is included?

A: C.W. Williams does the service testing. They are able to work on the equipment at the time of the problem and fix it. Cape Fear is satisfied with the service they receive.

2. Your combined PPE is \$9,000, what were the specifications used to purchase turn out gear?

A: Specs used – Chieftain 3200Ultra, NFPA Standards. Cape Fear wasn't aware of the specs set forth by the Fire Chiefs Council at the time of their purchase. Cape Fear intends to participate in the bulk purchase in the future if the county's offering is better.

3. In radio/pager replacement, you have \$7,000, please explain what is being replaced and at what cost.

A: Cape Fear is on a replacement program, 8 pagers replaced per year; based on the roster.

Lemon Springs

1. Please be able to explain the rationale in adding another fulltime position instead of using part-time personnel.

A: The fulltime person would be used to man the new substation and fill-in at the main station. The rationale was in scheduling. Problems arise when trying to get people to come in part-time.

2. In the line item Workers Compensation, there is \$1,500 budgeted. The Fire Marshal's Office picks up the cost of workers compensation.

A: Lemon Springs will go with the cheaper rates.

3. There is \$1,000 budgeted in First Responder, please explain what this consist of.

A: The amount is budgeted for supplies that EMS does not supply. It will also be used to help offset the cost of a defibrillator and to outfit the substation with supplies needed to run First Responder calls.

4. Please provide a copy of your FY 06/07 Audit.

A: Provided

Deep River

No questions

Carolina Trace

1. You have a \$3,200 increase in payroll, why?
A: Allows for a COLA raise for 7 PT members; 5 out of the 7 are First Responders
2. In disability/life, you have a \$2,700 increase, why?
A: Member costs
3. In physicals, there is budgeted \$3,000, have these been completed for the current year?
A: No physicals have been completed for this year; waiting to see how Cape Fear's went.
4. In uniforms paid and volunteer, there is \$3,800, what does this consist of?
A: Attire for 7 personnel and (boots, hats, polo shirts, etc.) and some articles for volunteers; money will be used to work on dress uniforms for the department also.
5. In accounting/legal service, there is a \$1,600 increase, why?
A: Clubhouse used to provide services but not anymore. Cost increase due to "Paychex®" in Cary doing payroll
6. Please explain why you have \$1,200 in service testing. Who does the testing? What kind of service is included?
A: New Tradition does service testing. If something breaks while testing, it can be fixed right on the spot.
7. In First Responder, there is \$1,000 what is this for?
A: Anything that EMS does not provide. This money allows for EMS bags to be placed on each truck.
8. In radio/pager replacement, you have \$5,500, please explain what is being replaced and at what cost.
A: Radio/pagers were purchased before bulk purchase began.
9. There is a \$7,400 increase in capital reserve, why? Please show where the \$35,600 budgeted in FY 07/08 is accounted for.
A: The 35,600 was used to purchase thermal imaging cameras, portable radios (each officer has one). Increase in reserve is to purchase air packs, hydrant flow test kit.

10. During the FY 07/08 Budget review, you stated that if the increase were approved the department would be able to catch up, however this year you are asking for an additional \$22,000 over last year, please be able to explain why and be able to justify this increase in detail.

A: Carolina Trace FD has made progress but still has a long way to go. Money set aside for matching funds for state grant. If no grant is awarded, the money will be used to purchase new equipment for ISO, turnout gear washer, generator, and other needed equipment.